

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of September 28, 2004. Claims 1-27 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has included herewith formal drawings, as requested by the Examiner. Applicant also has amended the specification to include updated information for the related application, as requested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment.

Cited Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bass et al ("Bass"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

The present invention optimizes leaf comparisons from a tree search of data stored in external memory of an embedded processing system. A control structure for leaf data comparisons is provided as a control vector and a match key, and the control vector is utilized to direct types of comparison tests performed with the match key. See independent claims 1, 10, 19, 26 and 27.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner contends that the recited invention is disclosed by Bass, and points particularly to parts of columns 9 and 10. Applicant respectfully submits that Bass wholly fails to teach, show, or suggest the recited invention.

In the cited sections of Bass, Bass refers to a search algorithm for trees that operates on input parameters including an input key. The walking of a tree provides a leaf that is compared to the input key at the end of the tree-walk. The search is a success when the pattern of the leaf matches the input key. Applicant fails to see any teaching or suggestion of the provision of a control structure for leaf data comparison as a control vector and a match key in column 9 of Bass, as asserted by the Examiner. Rather, as stated, Bass merely performs a comparison between an input key and a leaf pattern but is wholly silent regarding the provision of a control vector. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that without teaching or suggesting the provision of a control structure as a control vector and a match key, Bass fails to anticipate or remotely suggest the invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 26. Furthermore, Bass fails to teach or suggest that the leaf data is organized within fixed size blocks of memory in the external DRAM as a control vector and match key, as recited in independent claims 19 and 27.

In addition, without teaching or suggesting provision of a control vector, Bass fails to teach or suggest utilization of the control vector. More particularly, Bass fails to teach or suggest utilization of the control vector to direct types of comparison tests performed with the match key, as recited by the Applicant in independent claims 1, 10, 19, 26, and 27. The section of column 10 cited in the rejection of this feature merely describes a lookup definition table that is the main structure which manages tree search memory. While the Examiner points out that the lookup definition table in Bass indicates whether caching is enabled, the size of a key and a leaf, and the type of search to perform, Applicant fails to see how this description of a lookup definition table teaches or suggest utilization of a control vector portion of a control structure to direct types of

comparison tests performed with a match key portion of the control structure, as recited by the Applicant.

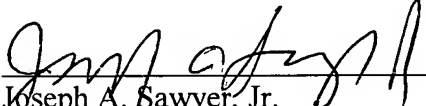
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, 19, 26, and 27 are not taught, shown, or suggested by the cited art. Applicant further respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-18, and 20-25 include the features of one of the independent claims while adding further features, and thus, are also respectfully submitted as allowable for at those reasons associated with the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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